

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 1 and 3-10. Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-10 are currently amended. Claim 2 is cancelled.

The amendment to claim 1 is supported in previous claim 2 (now cancelled) and on page 8, lines 5-6 of the specification.

The amendments to claims 3-5 and 7-10 are editorial and self-explanatory.

No new matter is added.

The present amendments are directly responsive to the Examiner's remarks in the Office Action or are a matter of form. Accordingly, entry under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.116 is fully warranted and respectfully requested.

**Specification**

On page 2 of the Official Action the Examiner objects to the disclosure over an informality. The specification is currently amended to address this objection.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakashima et al. (U.S. 5,126,143) in view of Farmer (U.S. 6,461,607).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The present invention is directed to a food composition for lowering the blood concentration of low-molecular-weight nitrogen-containing compounds which comprises a foodstuff with more than 5% by weight of water-soluble indigestible polysaccharides, *Bacillus coagulans*, a metal-containing yeast content of 0.01% to 5.0% by weight, and a protein

component of 8% or less by weight. Applicants submit that the "metal-containing yeast" limitation of claim 1, as currently amended, is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art.

Furthermore, "lowering the concentration of nitrogen in the blood" with the food composition of the present invention is also not disclosed or suggested in the prior art. Claim 1, as currently amended, lowers the concentration of nitrogen in the blood by the combination of restricting protein in the food composition to 8% or less by weight, and activating intestinal bacteria with the inclusion of a metal-containing yeast.

Accordingly, the combination of components of the presently claimed compositions, in particular, restricting protein in the food composition to 8% or less by weight, and including a metal-containing yeast, is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art.

The rejection of claims 1 and 3-10 over Nakashima et al. in view of Farmer should therefore be withdrawn.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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